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**IN  
THIS  
ISSUE**

*Agricultural Prices  
Census Confidentiality  
Livestock Slaughter  
Cold Storage Highlights  
Poultry Highlights  
Hogs & Pigs*

*Dear producers and other data users:*

*Information contained herein is the result of mail, phone and personal interview surveys conducted during the past few weeks. Special recognition and appreciation are extended to all producers and agribusinesses who provided data making these reports possible.*

*William G. Hamlin*  
State Statistician

## Prices Received By Farmers

The preliminary United States All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 97, based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from the November index. Lower prices for wheat, lettuce, broccoli, and eggs more than offset higher prices for cattle, tomatoes, hogs, and strawberries. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Decreased marketings of cattle, soybeans, grapes, and

corn offset increased marketings of wheat, tobacco, milk, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index was 4 points (4.3 percent) above December 2001. Higher prices for soybeans, wheat, corn, and cattle more than offset lower prices for boilers, hogs, lettuce, calves, and dry beans.

### Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary December 2002 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		Dec 2001 <sup>1</sup>	Nov 2002 <sup>1</sup>	Dec 15, 2002	Dec 2001 <sup>1</sup>	Nov 2002 <sup>1</sup>	Dec 15, 2002	% of Parity	Parity Price <sup>2</sup>
		<i>Dollars</i>			<i>Dollars</i>				
Wheat, All	Bushel	2.71	4.26	4.00	2.88	4.25	3.93	41	9.67
Corn	Bushel	1.91	2.37	2.31	1.98	2.27	2.29	35	6.55
Oats	Bushel	1.94	2.33	2.30	1.92	1.90	1.81	45	3.99
Grain Sorghum	Cwt	3.16	4.44	4.40	3.25	4.30	4.21	38	11.10
Soybeans	Bushel	4.06	5.42	5.30	4.20	5.46	5.48	38	14.30
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	73.00	89.00	88.00	95.60	93.60	92.60		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	75.00	89.00	89.00	105.00	101.00	100.00		
Other, Baled	Ton	63.00	86.00	81.00	73.40	75.40	74.70		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt	17.80	17.90	16.90	21.70	16.10	15.50	32	48.40
Hogs	Cwt	36.50	31.00	32.70	33.30	27.80	30.00	29	103.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt	36.70	31.20	32.90	33.80	28.10	30.40		
Sows	Cwt	25.60	22.50	25.00	25.10	20.40	22.80		
Beef Cattle	Cwt	68.90	70.30	73.50	64.80	67.60	70.20	44	160.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	70.00	71.50	74.80	68.50	72.00	74.80		
Cows	Cwt	34.70	32.00	33.00	36.00	33.00	34.20		
Calves	Cwt	104.00	95.20	102.00	101.00	88.20	93.60	44	212.00
Sheep	Cwt	31.60	33.30		34.00	32.80			76.30
Lambs	Cwt	60.70	81.80		61.40	84.10			180.00

<sup>1</sup> Entire month average except hay. <sup>2</sup> Parity price based on data for December 2002.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices December 31, 2002.

## WILL MY CENSUS INFORMATION BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

***Yes, by law, farmers and ranchers are  
guaranteed confidentiality.***

*By: Dean C. Groskurth, Deputy State Statistician, USDA-NASS,  
Lincoln, NE*

For all NASS surveys farmers and ranchers are guaranteed, by law, that their individual information will be kept confidential (US Code Title 7).

NASS uses the information only for statistical purposes and publishes data only in tabulated totals. Your report cannot be used for purposes of taxation, investigation, or regulation.

The law also provides that your data are immune from legal process. The privacy of individual records is also protected from disclosure through the Freedom of Information Act.

For those of you who just received your Census of Agriculture in the mail, your response is needed and greatly appreciated.

### Commercial Livestock Slaughter

November 2002 number slaughtered and changes from last year and last month are shown below. November 2001 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and four Saturdays. November 2002 contained 21 weekdays (including two holidays) and five Saturdays.

#### Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, November 2002 with Comparisons

Item	Total <sup>1</sup>	Nov. 2002 Percent of	
		Nov. 2001	Oct. 2002
Nebraska	<i>1,000 Head</i>		
Cattle, head	640.7	101	88
Hogs, head	601.9	97	94
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	630.3	100	89
United States			
Cattle, head	2,861.3	99	88
Calves, head	91.1	104	90
Hogs, head	8,655.5	99	92
Sheep & Lambs, head	271.3	94	90
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	3,907.3	98	89

<sup>1</sup> Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter, December 20, 2002.

# 2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

## Does Your Farm or Ranch Count?

The 2002 Census of Agriculture is now underway. Your response will help provide official facts representing all U.S. producers and commodities.

Don't be left out when decisions are made about you and American agriculture. Take the time to fill out your report form and return it by February 3, 2003. It's the law.

All the information you give is completely confidential by law.

For help completing your census form, call **1-888-4AG-STAT**.

***You Make It Known –  
Agriculture Counts!***

**[www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/)**



United States Department of Agriculture



National Agricultural Statistics Service

### Stocks in Cold Storage: By Commodity, United States, November 2002 with Comparisons

Commodity	Stocks	Nov. 2002 Percent of	
		Nov. 2001	Oct. 2002
1,000 Lbs.			
Total red meats	1,002,102	114	96
Beef	514,987	120	98
Pork	465,350	108	95
Poultry	1,134,401	119	76
Turkey	330,739	127	53
Chicken	796,076	116	92

Source: USDA NASS Cold Storage, December 20, 2002.

### Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and United States, November 2002 with Comparisons

Item	2001	2002	2002/2001
<i>Millions</i> <span style="float:right"><i>Percent</i></span>			
<b>Number of Layers</b>			
Nebraska	11.5	11.6	101
30 States	317.0	316.1	100
United States	337.9	338.6	100
<b>Eggs Produced</b>			
Nebraska	239	247	103
30 States	6,750	6,760	100
United States	7,191	7,246	101
<b>Chickens Hatched, Nov</b>			
United States			
Egg-type	32.1	31.1	97
Broiler	702.6	690.0	98

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs, December 23, 2002.

## Hogs and Pigs

Nebraska inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2002, was 2.90 million head. This was unchanged from both December 2001 and September 1, 2002. Breeding inventory, at 365,000 head, was down 1 percent from a year ago but 1 percent above last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 2.54 million head, was up fractionally from last year but down slightly from last quarter.

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the United States was 58.9 million head on December 1, 2002. This was 1 percent below December 1, 2001, and 2 percent below September 1, 2002. Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was down 3 percent from December 1, 2001, and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market inventory, at 52.9 million head, was 1 percent below last year and 2 percent below last quarter.

### Hogs and Pigs: December 1 Inventory, Sows Farrowing and Pig Crop, Nebraska and United States 2001-2002

Item	Nebraska			United States <sup>1</sup>		
	2001	2002	2002/2001	2001	2002	2002/2001
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
December 1 Inventory						
All hogs and pigs	2,900	2,900	100	59,804	58,943	99
Breeding	370	365	99	6,209	6,012	97
Market	2,530	2,535	100	53,594	52,931	99
Market Hogs & Pigs						
Under 60 pounds	1,030	1,010	98	19,908	19,461	98
60-119 pounds	610	650	107	12,924	12,919	100
120-179 pounds	500	480	96	10,744	10,736	100
180 pounds and over	390	395	101	10,018	9,815	98
Sows Farrowing						
December-February <sup>2</sup>	140	170	121	2,748	2,836	103
March-May	160	175	109	2,870	2,943	103
June-August	155	160	103	2,878	2,833	98
September-November	165	170	103	2,889	2,817	98
Total Sows Farrowing	620	675	109	11,385	11,429	100
Pig Crop						
December-February <sup>2</sup>	1,232	1,496	121	23,963	24,794	103
March-May	1,408	1,575	112	25,509	25,959	102
June-August	1,349	1,440	107	25,539	25,114	98
September-November	1,436	1,539	107	25,492	24,892	98
Total Pig Crop	5,425	6,050	112	100,503	100,758	100

<sup>1</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding. <sup>2</sup> December preceding year.

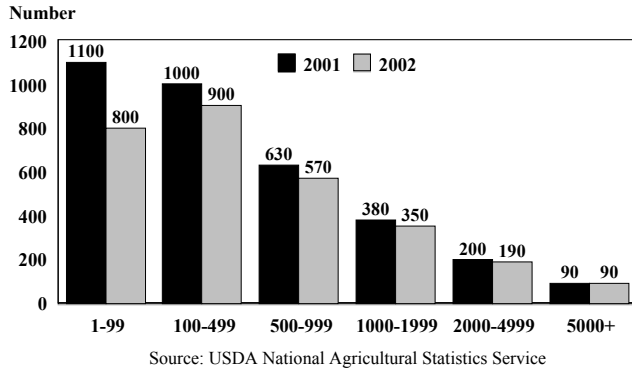
Source: USDA NASS Quarterly Hog and Pigs, December 30, 2002.

### Hogs and Pigs: Number of Operations with Hogs, Percent of Inventory by Size Group, Nebraska and United States, 2001-2002<sup>1</sup>

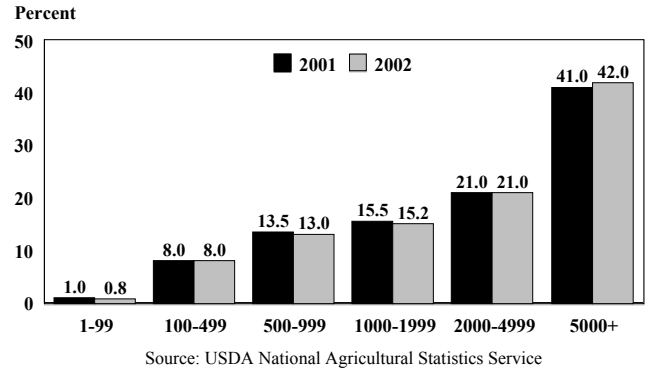
Size of Operation	Nebraska		United States	
	2001	2002	2001	2002
	<i>Operations - Number</i>			
1-99 head	1,100	800	45,812	42,725
100-499 head	1,000	900	15,405	13,479
500-999 head	630	570	7,201	6,489
1,000-1,999 head	380	350	5,469	5,435
2,000-4,999 head	200	190	4,794	4,964
5,000+ head	90	90	2,199	2,258
Total	3,400	2,900	80,880	75,350
	<i>Inventory - Percent</i>			
1-99 head	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.0
100-499 head	8.0	8.0	5.5	5.0
500-999 head	13.5	13.0	7.5	7.0
1,000-1,999 head	15.5	15.2	12.0	12.0
2,000-4,999 head	21.0	21.0	22.0	22.0
5,000+ head	41.0	42.0	52.0	53.0

<sup>1</sup> An operation is any place having one or more hogs and pigs on hand any time during the year. Percents reflect average distributions based primarily on mid-year surveys. Source: USDA NASS Quarterly Hog and Pigs, December 30, 2002.

## Nebraska Hog Operations Number by Size Group, 2001-2002



## Nebraska Hog Inventory Percent by Size Group, 2001-2002



## Factoid

### *“Years in Agricultural Production”*

Ninety percent of all principal U.S. farm and ranch operators in 1997 started farming after 1955. This means that only ten percent of operators started farming in 1955 or before.

Source: 1997 U.S. Agricultural Census

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